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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/749,150	12/30/2003	Marius Filtvedt	48577.2.1	3851

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EXAMINER

PHAM, HUONG Q

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3743

DATE MAILED: 06/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/749,150

Applicant(s)

FILTVEDT ET AL.

Examiner

Huong Q. Pham

Art Unit

3743

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-67 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43, 47-58 and 60-67 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 44-46, 59 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/7/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

After carefully review the claims, the examiner has agreed that the claims of Group I (claims 1 -24), and Group II (claims 25- 43, 47 –58, 60- 67) can be examined together . However, the claims of Group III (claims 44-46, 59) , as indicated in the last office action, are drawn to a method which includes a step of applying or administering anaesthetic agent(s) to the patient, classified in class 604, subclass 289 . Note that a thorough search for the claims of Groups I and II would not encompass for the subject matter of the claims of Group III.

Applicant has elected the claims of Group I. Therefore, the examiner has searched and examined claims 1-24, 25-43, 47-58, 60-67 (Groups I and II) in this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-8, 11-14, 25, 34, 52, 60, 62 – 63, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by MacLeod (3,292,613).

As for claim 1, by MacLeod teaches every claimed feature of claim 1 including a device capable for applying a pulsating pressure to a local region of the body, the device comprising a pressure chamber 10 (figure 1) in to which a limb of the body can be placed to seal it from external conditions, whereby in use the limb can be immersed in a liquid contained in the pressure chamber such that the liquid surrounds and is in contact with the limb , wherein an element 36 (figure 1) is capable of generating pulses of pressure within the chamber that can be transmitted to the limb directly via the liquid. As for claim 2, note seal 13. As for claim 3, note that the elongate housing 10 (figure 1) is a cylindrical housing. As for claims 4-8, note the inlet and outlet 31, 42 provided in the housing 10 for introducing and discharging the liquid into and out of the chamber, liquid flow transmission means 26. As for claims 11-14, note means 36 is capable of generating pulses of pressure within the chamber and thereby exerting a pulsating pressure on the surface of the limb while the limb is immersed in a flow of liquid. As for claim 25, note that MacLeod teaches the recited steps including the steps of providing a pressure chamber; introducing a limb in to the pressure chamber such that it is sealed from external conditions, filling or partial filling the pressure chamber with a liquid to immerse the limb in the liquid so that it is substantially surrounded by and in contact with the liquid, and generating a pulsating pressure within the chamber and transmitting the pulses of pressure to the limb directly via the liquid. As for claim 34, note that the liquid is circulated within the pressure chamber to generate a flow of liquid which is in direct contact with the limb.

Claim 9, 25, 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by MacLeod (3,094,983).

MacLeod teaches every claimed feature of claim 9 including a device capable for applying a pulsating pressure to a local region of the body, the device comprising a pressure chamber 10 (figure 1) in to which a limb of the body can be placed to seal it from external conditions, heat exchanger 24, whereby in use the limb can be immersed in a liquid contained in the pressure chamber such that the liquid surrounds and is in contact with the limb , wherein an element 34 (figure 1) is capable of generating pulses of pressure within the chamber that can be transmitted to the limb directly via the liquid, wherein the liquid is circulated through a heat exchanger unit 24.

Claims 47 , 61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Norton et al (3,878,839).

Norton et al teaches every claimed feature or steps of the claims including a pressure chamber 31 (figure 6) into which the limb can be inserted, a barrier layer of tlexible material 31 housed within that chamber for form-fitted engagement against the skin, the barrier layer defining an inner region within the pressure chamber for receiving the limb which is separated from a flow of liquid within the chamber, wherein the device includes an element or means for generating a pulsating pressure within the pressure chamber, and an element or means for generating a negative pressure between the barrier layer and the area of skin (figure 14) to maintain the barrier layer in contact with the area of skin.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacLeod (3,094,983) .

Note that the use of a well-known heat exchanger which comprises a plurality of heat exchanger tubes housed within a water bath or reservoir is well within the realm of one ordinary skill in the art, and does not provide any unobvious result, and therefore is not patentable over prior art.

Claims 15- 18 , 26-33, 35-37, 48- 58, 64-67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by MacLeod (3,292,613) in view of Grahm (5,683,438) and Norton et al (3,878,839).

Note the comments above for the teaching of MacLeod. Grahm teaches a device with vacuum pump 32, and heat exchanger 44. Norton et al teaches a device with vacuum pump 85 (figure 12) . In view of the teachings of Grahm and Norton et al , it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the device of MacLeod with a vacuum pump and heat exchanger in

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order to exhaust all the air inside chamber 10 , and to heat the circulating fluid. Note that the use of a Y connector to provide more connections between the pressure source and the chamber is well within the realm of one ordinary skill in the art (note figure12 of Norton et al), and does not provide any unobvious result, and therefore is not patentable over prior art. As for claim 17, note that Grahn teaches this pressure range. As for claim 18 , note the valve 28 of Grahn. As for claims 28- 33 , note that the claimed time intervals are well within the realm of one ordinary skill in the art, and do not provide any unobvious result, and therefore are not patentable over prior art. As for claims 48-58, 64-67, note the comments relative to the claims above.

Claims 19- 24, 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by MacLeod (3,292,613) in view of Grahn (5,683,438) and Norton et al (3,878,839) and further in view of McGarath (3,896,794) and Christoffel (4,186,732) .

McGarath teaches a timer system 56. Christoffel teaches a pulse timer 13. In view of the teachings of McGarath and Christoffel, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the device of MacLeod with a timer system to bleed air at intervals for generating pulses of negative pressure. As for claims 20- 24, note that the claimed time intervals are well within the realm of one ordinary skill in the art, and do not provide any unobvious result, and therefore are not patentable over prior art.

. Claim 39 -42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over MacLeod (3,094,983) in view of Grahn(5,683, 438).

Grahn teaches heating water at 43 degrees C. Note that the recited temperature is well within the realm of one ordinary skill in the art, and do not provide any unobvious result, and therefore are not patentable over prior art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Huong Q. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-4980. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:45 AM - 5:15 PM.

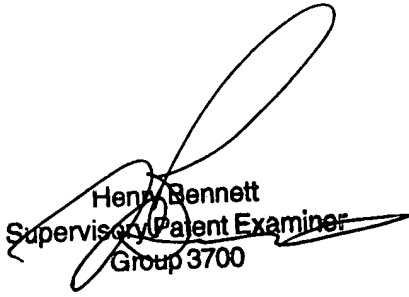
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Henry Bennett can be reached on (571) 272 - 4791. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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June 8, 2006



Henry Bennett
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700